

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SS-14 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL FRANCE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

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E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: APRIL 2 INDOCHINA PRESS SUMMARY

1. RICHARDSON TELLS , MEET THE PRESS" BOMBING NECESSARY TO
KEEP GKR ALIVE AND PRESSURE COMMUNISTS INTO C- F. NYT' S
GWERTZMAN SAYS SECRETARY GOES FURTHER THAN PRESIDENT IN
WARNING HANOI OF RENEWED BOMBING OF NVN IN EVENT ITS
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VIOLATIONS OF VN AGREEMENT BECOME SERIOUS THREAT TO
PEACE. RICHARDSON DECLINES STATE US WOULD UNDER NO

CIRCUMSTANCES EVER SEND MILITARY FORCES BACK TO INDOCHINA, BUT SAYS " WE VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THIS WILL NOT BE NECESSARY." CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY FOR KHMER BOMBING, HE SAYS, RESTS UPON FACT THAT CAMBODIA SITUATION IS " A KIND OF RESIDUE... THE AREA WHERE LEAST OF ALL THERE IS NOW BEING OBSERVED THE PROVISIONS OF THE (VN AGREEMENT)" (NYT, WP, SUN).

2. COMMUNISTS ATTACK TAKEO AND KEEP STRANGLE- HOLD ON LOCs INTO PP AS FIGHTING INTENSIFIES THROUGHOUT COUNTRY. CINCPAC ANNOUNCES US BOMBING AT GKR REQUEST (NYT, WP, SUN). GKR ARRESTS WITHOUT CHARGES 55 TOP KHMER ASTROLOGERS AFTER WIDESPREAD PREDICTIONS THAT LON NOL GOVERNMENT WON' T SURVIVE UNTIL END OF APRIL. LIKE MOST KHMER, LON NOL SAID TO BELIEVE ASTROLOGERS' PREDICTIONS (CSM).

3. CAPT. WHITE, LAST POW, RELEASED BY VC IN DELTA. WAS NOT UNTIL US OFFICER AT PICK- UP POINT TOOK HIS ARM AND SAID, " LET' S GO TO THE PLANE" THAT HE REALIZED HE HAD BEEN FREED (NYT, SUN).

4. GVN SAYS COMMUNIST SIEGE OF TON LE CHAN OUTPOST CONTINUES INTO FIFTH WEEK WITH DEFENDERS LOSING 100 KIA AND VNAF BOMBING COMMUNIST POSITIONS (NYT, SUN).

EX- POW CAPT. WILBER ACKNOWLEDGES IN TV INTERVIEW THAT HE MADE ANTIWAR STATEMENTS FOR NVN CAPTORS WITHOUT

HAVING BEEN TORTURED IN FIVE YEARS OF CAPTIVITY. SAYS HE WON' T " DISBELIEVE OR REPUDIATE" TORTURE STORIES OF OTHER MEN, BUT BELIEVES " EACH PERSON HAS TO TELL HIS OWN STORY." WILBER SAYS PRESSURE OF CONSCIENCE MADE HIM CHANGE HIS MIND ABOUT WAR WHILE IN PRISON. SOME EX- POWS MAY BRING COURT MARTIAL CHARGES AGAINST WILBER AND SOME OTHERS FOR THEIR ANTIWAR ACTIVITIES WHILE IN CAPTIVITY. CAPT. MULLIGAN SAYS, " ANY GUY WHO GOES TO HANOI AND GETS RELIGION ABOUT THE WAR AFTER HE' S SHOT DOWN IS A PURE PHONY" (HERSH, NYT; SUN; WP).

5. SWEDEN WON' T ACCEPT AMERICAN MILITARY DESERTERS NOW THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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VN WAR IS OVER, SAYS GOS IMMIGRATION CHIEF (NYT, WP, SUN).

6. THIEU HOPES ENHANCE HIS DOMESTIC IMAGE AS WELL AS CHANGE MIND OF SOME US CRITICS DURING US TRIP. NO SERIOUS DEMONSTRATIONS EXPECTED, BUT FONDA- HAYDEN PLAN SAN CLEMENTE GATE PROTEST (NYT, SUN). POLICE INTERVENE AT LA AIRPORT TO PREVENT PRO AND ANTI- THIEU GROUPS FROM TANGLING (WP).

7. NYT BIO OF AMB. GRAHAM MARTIN SAYS HE HIGHLY

REGARDED AS PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMAT; BUT, ACCORDING ONE FSO, " FOR EVERY OFFICER WHO LIKES MARTIN, THERE IS ANOTHER ONE WHO DETESTS HIM." ANOTHER OFFICER SAYS MARTIN TAKES VERY SERIOUSLY BEING PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PRESIDENT, AND LETS ANYONE WHO MIGHT FORGET IT, KNOW IT. HIS ADOPTED SON WAS KILLED IN 1966 SVN AIR CRASH (NYT).

8. NHAN DAN SAYS TORTURE STORIES BY EX- POWS BEING DRUMMED UP TO DEFLECT ATTENTION FROM US " CRIMES" IN VN, AND CLAIMS DRV POW POLICY WAS " HUMANITARIAN" (SUN). SEN. BUCKLEY CALLS UPON SEC. ROGERS TO ISSUE " STRONGEST POSSIBLE PROTEST" TO HANOI OVER TREATMENT OF POWS AND URGES PRESIDENT " CAREFULLY RECONSIDER ANY PROPOSAL FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO NORTH VIETNAM IN LIGHT OF THE POW REPORTS OF TREATMENT AND PRISON CONDITIONS." MANSFIELD

SAYS TORTURE STORIES DON' T AFFECT HIS POSITION ON AID TO NVN, BUT HE DOESN' T KNOW WHAT EFFECT THEY WILL HAVE ON PROSPECTS OF GETTING AID THROUGH CONGRESS (SUN).

9. CLARK AFB SOURCE SAYS CANADIAN RELEASEE OPPEL DESCRIBED HOW TWO AMERICAN WOMEN MISSIONARIES, EVELYN ANDERSON AND BEATRICE KOSIN, WERE TIED ALIVE TO POLE INSIDE HUT WHICH WAS THEN SET AFIRE. THEIR CHARRED BODIES WERE LATER FOUND AT KENGKOK IN SOUTHERN LAOS (WP).

10. RICHARDSON SAYS US GOAL IN KHMER BOMBING IS TO HASTEN C- F AND NOT PREVENT COMMUNIST POLITICAL TAKEOVER. SAYS IT HAS NEVER BEEN US OBJECTIVE TO " PREVENT BY PEACEFUL POLITICAL MEANS AN EVENTUAL TAKEOVER. TELLS " MEET THE PRESS" COLLAPSE OF GKR WOULD HAVE " SIGNIFICANT" EFFECT UPON VIABILITY OF GVN (WP).

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11. LAOTIANS SLOW TO CARRY OUT PEACE ACCORD, ACCORDING WP' S LIPPMAN. PHOUMI VONGVICHIT' S CONTINUED ABSENCE FROM TALKS PREVENTING AGREEMENT ON COMPOSITION OF GOVERNMENT. HANOI MAY BE CAUSING STALEMATE UNTIL IT SEES HOW THINGS GO IN SVN AND CAMBODIA. THERE ALSO MAY BE SPLIT IN PL OVER PEACE TERMS. US OFFICIALS IN VIENTIANE SEE NO SERIOUS THREAT FROM RIGHTISTS WHO HAVE NO RESOURCES OF THEIR OWN (WP).

12. NHAN DAN ACCUSES US OF SENDING SPY PLANES OVER NVN; RICHARDSON DENIES (WP).

13. CSM (MAR. 31) EXPRESSES UNDERSTANDING OF CANADA' S RESERVATIONS ABOUT STAYING IN ICCS, IN VIEW OF CONFLICTS AMONG ICCS MEMBERS AND C- F VIOLATIONS, ALL OF WHICH ICCS CANNOT CHECK. HOWEVER, SITUATION IS NOT HOPELESS;

OTHERWISE, CANADA WOULD HAVE PULLED OUT INSTEAD OF
AGREEING TO REMAIN ANOTHER 90 DAYS.

14. NYDN SAYS THROUGH RETURNED POWS WE CAN SEE THE
TRUE FACE OF THE ENEMY - MERCILESS AND FULL OF HATE.
WE MUST NEVER FORGET IT, FOR BEHIND THAT AWFUL
VISAGE LIES THE WILL AND DETERMINATION TO TAKE FROM US
EVERYTHING WE HOLD DEAR - FREEDOM, HONOR, JUSTICE AND PEACE."

15. MARQUIS CHILDS (SUN) OPINES THAT PRESIDENT' S
TOUGH SPEECH, AND STORIES OF COMMUNIST TORTURE OF
POWS WHICH APPEAR TO BE ORCHESTRATED BY DOD, COULD
COMPLETELY TURN PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST ANY HELP FOR
SVN AS WELL AS NVN. THIEU IS HARDLY FIGURE TO COMMAND
CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC APPROVAL TO REBUILD SVN, AND
HIS PRESENCE IN US WILL ADD HIS FULL MEASURE OF
OPPOSITION TO ANY ASSISTANCE TO NORTH. OBSERVES
THAT CRIES FOR WAR- CRIMES TRIAL AGAINST TORTURES COULD
BE FINAL BLOW TO ANY HOPE FOR PROGRAM THAT HAK NEGOTIATED
IN HANOI. IT WOULD KEEP CAULDRON OF HATRED BOILING. MOREOVER
TRIAL COULD BRING UNDER SCRUTINY CARPET- BOMBING OF NORTH,
INDISCRIMINATE USE OF NAPALM AGAINST CIVILIANS, SAIGON' S
TIGER CAGES FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND MY LAI. BIBLICAL
INJUNCTION, " LET HIM WHO IS WITHOUT SIN CAST THE FIRST STONE,"
HAS POWERFUL BEARING ON AFTERMATH OF LONGEST AND BITTEREST
WAR IN AMERICA' S HISTORY. RUSH
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